



IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-21 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A search method comprising:
specifying a search word included in a search condition designated by a user;
extracting a synonym of said search word from a synonym file;
obtaining evaluation data of said search word, which ~~that is~~ at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency of said search word and a number of documents including said search word ~~or its synonym, and evaluation data of the extracted synonym, which is at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency of said extracted synonym and a number of documents including said extracted synonym for each of said search word and its synonym;~~
presenting said user with said search word, ~~and its~~ said extracted synonym, said evaluation data of said search word, and said the corresponding evaluation data of said extracted synonym in a manner in which said search word and ~~or its synonym is are~~ selectable;
accepting data representing a search word selected by said user or data representing a synonym selected by said user; and
presenting said user with data concerning a-an identified document including said-the selected search word or ~~its-the selected~~ synonym ~~that was selected by said user.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said specifying comprises extracting a-said search word from a sentence input as said search condition by a morphological analysis.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said obtaining evaluation data comprises:
~~extracting a synonym from said search word; and~~
counting either of said number of documents including said search word and said number of documents including said extracted synonym ~~or its synonym and~~ a first appearance frequency of ~~each of said search word and its synonym~~ in said documents including said search

word and a first appearance frequency of said extracted synonym in said documents including said extracted synonym by searching documents by using said search word and its said extracted synonym.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said obtaining evaluation data further comprises:

counting a second appearance frequency of said search word in a sentence input as said search condition; and

calculating said score based on said appearance frequency of said search word by using said second appearance frequency of said search word and said first appearance frequency of ~~each of said search word and its synonym~~, and said score based on said appearance frequency of said extracted synonym by using said second appearance frequency of said search word and said first appearance frequency of said extracted synonym.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first presenting comprises:

judging whether or not said evaluation data of said search word and ~~its~~ said evaluation data of said extracted synonym satisfies a predetermined condition; and

presenting said user with said search word or said extracted ~~its~~-synonym whose evaluation data satisfies said predetermined condition in a state indicating being pre-selected and said search word or said extracted ~~its~~-synonym whose evaluation data does not satisfy said predetermined condition in a state indicating being unselected.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search method as set forth in claim ~~15~~, wherein said predetermined condition is a condition in which said number of documents including said search word or said number of documents including its said extracted synonym is lower than a first threshold, or a condition in which said score based on said appearance frequency ~~for of~~ said search word or said score based on said appearance frequency of its said extracted synonym exceeds a second threshold.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second presenting comprises:

counting, for each of said documents, a third appearance frequency of said selected search word in said identified document, or ~~its~~ a third appearance frequency of said selected

~~synonym that was selected by said user, in said identified document documents including said search word or its synonym that was selected by said user; and~~

~~presenting said user with said data concerning said documents including said search word or its synonym that was selected by said user in order of values calculated by using said third appearance frequency of said selected search word or said third appearance frequency of said selected synonym.~~

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A search program embodied on a computer-readable medium causing a computer to perform operations, said ~~search program operations~~ comprising:

~~specifying a search word included in a search condition designated by a user;~~

~~extracting a synonym of said search word from a synonym file;~~

~~obtaining evaluation data of said search word, which that is at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency of said search word and a number of documents including said search word or its synonym, and evaluation data of the extracted synonym, which is at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency of said extracted synonym and a number of documents including said extracted synonym for each of said search word and its synonym;~~

~~presenting said user with said search word, and its said extracted synonym, said evaluation data of said search word, and said the corresponding evaluation data of said extracted synonym in a manner in which said search word and or its said extracted synonym is are selectable;~~

~~accepting data representing a search word selected by said user or data representing a synonym selected by said user; and~~

~~presenting said user with data concerning a an identified document including said the selected search word or its the selected synonym ~~that was selected by said user.~~~~

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search program as set forth in claim 8, wherein said specifying comprises extracting a said search word from a sentence input as said search condition by a morphological analysis.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search program as set forth in claim 8, wherein said obtaining evaluation data comprises:

~~extracting a synonym from said search word; and~~

~~counting either of said number of documents including said search word and said number of documents including said extracted synonym or its synonym and a first appearance~~

frequency of ~~each of said search word and its synonym~~ in said documents including said search word and a first appearance frequency of said extracted synonym in said documents including said extracted synonym by searching documents by using said search word and ~~its said extracted~~ synonym.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search program as set forth in claim 10, wherein said obtaining evaluation data further comprises:

counting a second appearance frequency of said search word in a sentence input as said search condition; and

calculating said score based on said appearance frequency of said search word by using said second appearance frequency of said search word and said first appearance frequency of ~~each of said search word and its synonym~~, and said score based on said appearance frequency of said extracted synonym by using said second appearance frequency of said search word and said first appearance frequency of said extracted synonym.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search program as set forth in claim 8, wherein said first presenting comprises:

judging whether or not said evaluation data of said search word and said evaluation data of said extracted ~~its-synonym~~ satisfies a predetermined condition; and

presenting said user with said search word or said extracted ~~its-synonym~~ whose evaluation data satisfies said predetermined condition in a state indicating being pre-selected and said search word or said extracted ~~its-synonym~~ whose evaluation data does not satisfy said predetermined condition in a state indicating being unselected.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search program as set forth in claim ~~8~~12, wherein said predetermined condition is a condition in which said number of documents including said search word or said number of documents including ~~its-said extracted~~ synonym is lower than a first threshold, or a condition in which said score based on said appearance frequency ~~for of~~ of said search word or said score based on said appearance frequency of ~~its-said extracted~~ synonym exceeds a second threshold.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search program as set forth in claim 8, wherein said second presenting comprises:

counting, for each of said documents, a third appearance frequency of said selected

search word in said identified documents, or a third appearance frequency of its said selected synonym that was selected by said user, in said identified document~~documents including said search word or its synonym that was selected by said user~~; and

presenting said user with said data concerning said documents ~~including said search word or its synonym that was selected by said user~~ in order of values calculated by using said third appearance frequency of said selected search word or said third appearance frequency of said selected synonym.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A search apparatus, comprising:
- a specifier ~~to specify that specifies~~ a search word included in a search condition designated by a user;
 - an extractor that extracts a synonym of said search word from a synonym file;
 - an obtainer ~~to obtain that obtains~~ evaluation data of said search word, which that is at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency of said search word and a number of documents including said search word ~~or its synonym~~, and evaluation data of the extracted synonym, which is at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency of said extracted synonym and a number of documents including said extracted synonym for each of said search word and its synonym;
 - a first indicator ~~that presents to present~~ said user with said search word, and its said extracted synonym, said evaluation data of said search word, and the corresponding said evaluation data of said extracted synonym in a manner in which said search word and or its said extracted synonym is are selectable;
 - a processor that accepts data representing a search word selected by said user or data representing a synonym selected by said user; and
 - a second indicator ~~that presents to present~~ said user with data concerning a an identified document including said the selected search word or its the selected synonym ~~that was selected by said user~~.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search apparatus ~~method as~~ set forth in claim 15, wherein said specifier comprises an extractor that extracts to extract a said search word from a sentence input as said search condition by a morphological analysis.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search apparatus ~~method as~~ set forth in claim 15, wherein said obtainer comprises:

~~an extractor to extract a synonym from said search word; and~~
a counter that counts ~~to count~~ either of said number of documents including said search word and said number of documents including said extracted synonym or ~~its synonym and a first appearance frequency of each of said search word and its synonym in said documents including said search word and a first appearance frequency of said extracted synonym in said documents including said extracted synonym~~ by searching documents by using said search word and ~~its~~ said extracted synonym.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search apparatus ~~method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said obtainer further comprises:~~

a second counter that counts ~~to count~~ a second appearance frequency of said search word in a sentence input as said search condition; and

a calculator that calculates ~~to calculate~~ said score based on said appearance frequency of said search word by using said second appearance frequency of said search word and said first appearance frequency of each of said search word and its synonym, and said score based on said appearance frequency of said extracted synonym by using said second appearance frequency of said search word and said search word and said first appearance frequency of said extracted synonym.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search apparatus ~~method as set forth in claim 15, wherein said first indicator comprises:~~

a processor that judges ~~to judge~~ whether or not said evaluation data of said search word and said evaluation data of said extracted ~~its synonym~~ satisfies a predetermined condition; and

~~a~~ an indicator that presents ~~to present~~ said user with said search word or said extracted ~~its synonym~~ whose evaluation data satisfies said predetermined condition in a state indicating being pre-selected and said search word or ~~its~~ said extracted synonym whose evaluation data does not satisfy said predetermined condition in a state indicating being unselected.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search apparatus ~~method as set forth in claim 15~~¹⁹, wherein said predetermined condition is a condition in which said number of documents including said search word or said number of documents including ~~its said extracted~~ synonym is lower than a first threshold, or a condition in which said score based on said appearance frequency ~~for of~~ said search word or said score based on said appearance frequency of ~~its said extracted~~ synonym exceeds a second threshold.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search apparatus ~~method~~ as set forth in claim 15, wherein said second indicator comprises:

a counter that counts, for each of said documents, to count a third appearance frequency of said selected search word in said identified document, or a third appearance frequency of its said selected synonym that was selected by said user, in said documents including said search word or its synonym that was selected by said user; and

an indicator that presents to present said user with said data concerning said documents including said search word or its synonym that was selected by said user in order of values calculated by using said third appearance frequency of said selected search word or said third appearance frequency of said selected synonym.